



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has developed a draft *Quartermaster Harbor Mooring Buoy Management Plan* for state-owned aquatic lands in Quartermaster Harbor, Vashon Island, King County. The plan documents how DNR will establish appropriate locations, densities, and installation methods for mooring buoys, while enforcing appropriate management and regulatory standards in Quartermaster Harbor. When finalized, the Quartermaster Harbor Mooring Buoy Management Plan will be a supplement to the Maury Island Environmental Aquatic Reserve Management Plan (October 29, 2004).

In the Quartermaster Harbor Mooring Buoy Management Plan, DNR considered three management options for the existing, unauthorized recreational mooring buoys in Burton Cove and Dockton areas and along the shoreline of Quartermaster Harbor, Maury Island Environmental Aquatic Reserve. These areas have a high concentration of mooring buoys, and a number of potential navigation and safety, and environmental protection issues have been identified. When properly designed and authorized, mooring buoys provide appropriate public use and access and decrease impacts of anchoring within the Reserve, such as scouring and/or crushing of aquatic vegetation, marine life, and other substrates. DNR's plan would:

Short-term

- Establish mooring buoy fields in Burton Cove and Dockton at a density that would avoid unsafe navigational conditions and potential vessel collisions.
- Designate navigation channels to accommodate safe egress and ingress.
- Evaluate eelgrass and herring spawn data, and possibly re-sample.
- Authorize installation of recreational mooring buoys with midline floats and appropriately-sized embedded anchors or allow applicants currently using existing concrete anchors to phase in embedded anchors over a short period of time, in order to conform with regulatory requirements.

Long-term

- Remove abandoned or derelict buoys in the mooring buoy areas as funding becomes available.
- Encourage King County to establish a paid harbor master position for monitoring and enforcement.
- Encourage King County Parks or Vashon Park District to establish a public access point in Burton.

Proponent: Washington State Department of Natural Resources,

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: State-owned aquatic lands at the Maury Island Aquatic Reserve in Quartermaster Harbor, Vashon Island, King County. In Townships 22N, Rge 3E; 21N, Rge 3E, 22N, Rge 2E

Lead agency: Washington State Department of Natural Resources

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21c.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

Notice of Public Meeting

Who: DNR Aquatic Resources Division

What: Public Meeting to review Draft Quartermaster Harbor Mooring Buoy Management Plan

When: 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, December 6, 2012

Where: McMurray Middle School

9329 SW Cemetery Rd.

Vashon 98070-6105

Directions: <http://g.co/maps/mu6yp>

☐ **There is no comment period for this DNS.**

☒ **This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency comment period will run from Monday, November 26, 2012 through Monday, January 7, 2013.**

Responsible official: Kristin Swenddal

Position/Title: Aquatic Resources Division Manager

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Aquatic Resources Division

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Date: Nov. 26, 2012

Signature: Kristin Swenddal

There is no DNR administrative SEPA appeal.